that have received positive response, are being implemented with immediate effect. India, on 24 November 2003, has welcomed the decision of the Government of Pakistan to work for expanding the communication links that were proposed on 22nd October, and proposed immediate technical level talks for early implementation of these proposals. The Director General Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two countries also agreed to observe ceasefire on the International Border, LoC and Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Jammu and Kashmir with effect from the midnight of November 25, 2003.

Loss of Man-days

292. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the man-days lost due to strike has gone down subsequently;

(b) whether on the other hand, the man-days lost due to closure, lockout and lay offs, are in steep rise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) According to information provided by the Labour Bureau, Shimla, man-days lost due to strikes increased from 55.63 lakhs in 2001 to 96.64 lakhs in 2002. During 2003 (January-September), man-days lost due to strikes were 18.73 lakhs.

Man-days lost due to lock-outs declined from 182.04 lakhs in 2001 to 169.21 lakhs in 2002 while man-days lost due to lay offs increased from 23.65 lakhs to 27.84 lakhs during the same period. During 2003 (January to September) man-days lost due to lock-outs and lay-offs were 197.95 lakhs and 14.04 lakhs respectively. There were no man-days lost due to closures.

Unemployment in the country

293. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment in the country is around 2 per cent;